

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held online at 6.00 pm. on WEDNESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2020

Minutes

Present:

Cllr Mike Burtenshaw
Cllr Steph Exell
Cllr Suresh Gattapur (Vice Chair)
Cllr Nigel Gibbons
Cllr Geoff Gould
Cllr Tim Makofu
Cllr Nick Martin
Cllr Mary Martin
Cllr Trish Philpot
Cllr Tim Swinyard
Cllr Caryl Sydney Smith

Officers:

Paula Harrison (Parish Manager)
Leanne Curtis (Assistant Clerk)

Public: One.

Cllr Gibbons chaired the meeting.

Public Question Time:

A resident asked for clarification on whether or not the team have the tools they need to conduct their work safely following a response from the Parish Manager which indicated that the team could not complete the job safely. The Parish Manager advised that the work had been paused due to concern that the side arm could not cut the rear of the hedge without damaging neighbouring property and the team could not cut it by hand due to the height and access. The Chair confirmed that the matter would be clarified further.

Meeting started 6.02 pm.

631. Apologies

Cllr Umar Ali due to other commitments, Cllr Keith Williams due to attendance at another meeting.

All apologies received were approved.

632. Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Noted that Cllr Gould is not a member of this Committee and would not be voting.

Standing Orders suspended to begin public question time 6.05 pm

Standing Orders resumed 6.11 pm

Cllr Gattapur joined the meeting 6.10 pm

633. Community Orchard Request

The Parish Manager updated that since the last meeting of this Committee, there has been a meeting to give feedback from the Committee on the principle of a community orchard on Shaw Ridge Linear Park. It was agreed that alongside community planting, residents could be encouraged to take care of this part of the open space. Any planting must be in keeping with the existing environment and the Parish Council will not be responsible for damage or replacement of plants. Where possible, the Parish Council will facilitate help and support as they would for other volunteer groups.

Sovereign Housing Association will review how many residents wish to be involved and to provide information on the scale of their proposal. The Parish Manager will liaise with Swindon Borough Council to secure a license for the project.

RESOLVED that an update to be brought to a future meeting of this committee.

634. Fowey/Desborough Parking Survey

The Assistant Clerk reported that following on from the last meeting of this Committee, a survey had been circulated to residents living in Fowey, Desborough and part of Worsley Road. 35 letters introducing the survey were posted, 13 responses were received. A summary of responses and copy of comments appears as **Appendix A** in the Minute Book.

Councillors discussed the responses and proposed a number of options to restrict vehicle access to the verges including the introduction of boulders as at Bevil, or tarmacking verges. It was noted that Swindon Borough Council has a Cabinet Member Advisory Group looking at this issue which may agree its own conclusions on responses to this problem. It was agreed that the cost may be prohibitive. It was also noted that there may be restrictions to protect underground services. The Parish Manager advised that the route to initiate a project through Swindon Borough Council Highways would need to be investigated further.

RESOLVED that the matter be raised with Swindon Borough Council and clarification to be brought back to a meeting of this Committee.

635. BMX Pump Track Update

The Parish Manager updated the Committee and reported that the designs were currently

out for feedback from established bmx riders and groups. It was hoped that this would assist the Parish Council to narrow down to two designs for a wider public consultation. An application for funding had been submitted to the Science Museum Group Wroughton Solar Park Large Grant fund which meets in mid February. The project is eligible but may not meet the funders preference for projects that have science and technology innovation. The Committee noted the progress to date.

Cllr Gattapur reported that local fundraising had been paused due to the pandemic but a total of £3634 would be transferred to the Parish Council for the project.

636. Play Area & Covid Restrictions

Councillors were updated on the current Government guidelines regarding play areas. Children's play areas remain open whereas as outdoor gym equipment is closed. This is a challenge for the Parish Council as there are many pieces of gym equipment within play area spaces. A Risk Assessment for Play Areas has been updated a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** in the Minute Book. The Parish Manager reported that advice to play areas would be posted in each play area, a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** in the Minute Book. Closure notices would be posted where there is gym equipment and red/white tape used to obstruct access. Information would also be circulated on Facebook.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council continues to review its compliance with Government Guidance during the pandemic.

Date of next online meeting: Wednesday 10 February 2021 6.00 pm

Meeting closed 6.42 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee